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W. N. ARMSTRONG - EDITOR

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DR. BISHOP ON THE THEATER.

"Theaters invariably pander to the tastes of the degraded majority of mankind, therefore fail to uplift."—Dr. Serebo Bishop in the Friend.

It is this sort of extravagant talk that causes infinite mischief to the church, and to the cause of elevating mankind.

The number of illustrious and reputable clergymen who patronize the theater is increasing every year. Refined, Christian and educated people not only attend it, but encourage their children, and young people to do so. To such the comments of Dr. Bishop are a standing insult.

If the reverend doctor had glanced through a window at the audiences that lately attended Nance O'Neil's presentations at the opera house, he would have seen a large portion of the cultivated people of this place in attendance. To these, his comments are insulting, ill-bred, and foolish. He forces himself into a discussion of a question which the liberal theologians of the "orthodox" faith have placed in the sphere of private judgment. His comments are only malicious slurs upon their sense of right and wrong.

Carlyle said: "Man carries under his hat a private theater, wherein a greater drama is acting than ever on the mimic stage, beginning and ending in eternity."

We will assume that Carlyle states the truth. Dr. Bishop, then, is conducting a private theater of his own, in which he plays his own orchestra, raises and lets fall the curtain, chooses and acts his own parts, and is, in fact, a strolling company of players, consisting of one person only, of the kind so richly described by Dickens. As he moves about this town, he pitches his tent, and does his parts, before his fellow citizens, as a heavy tragedian, denouncing the terrible villain known as the "Nude," or he seizes the damsel of Righteousness from the wicked arms of Satan, and to the shouting galleries he shows as the drama usually shows, the combats of Virtue and Vice.

The real difference between Dr. Bishop's private theater and the public theater is, that in the public theater vice is conquered, while Dr. Bishop is simply able to say, in his own private theater, to the Saloon Keeper and the trencherous Nude, "unhand me villains." This they refuse to do, and the doctor rings down his own curtain over the triumph of the wicked.

The question then arises, which panders more to the tastes of the degraded majority, the real stage with its mimic success or Dr. Bishop's stage upon which wicked men seem to be getting the best of him.

There is no reason why Dr. Bishop should enter the debatable ground in morals. There is abundance of room—vast prairies—of ground where all concede that the weeds of iniquity flourish. On these he can spend his strength in pulling up the noxious weeds, and casting them into the waste heaps. The doctor seems to have inherited a tendency to become a Moral Autocrat, and rejects the humble part of a Worm of the Dust.

GEN. WOODFORD.

The Baptist Social Union of the city of Brooklyn held its first ladies' night and dinner of the season on November 1st, at the Hotel Savoy. General Stewart L. Woodford, late minister to Spain made an address. He used these words:

"Our flag is in Manila bay. Every tradition of the American people is against an American colonial policy, against what we miscall imperialism. But at the same time, God or evolution, history or fate, has carried our flag 7000 miles across the sea, and has given to the Filipinos the dream of freedom from Spanish rule. For us to turn them back to Spanish rule would be a sin against God and a shame to the nation. How we are to solve these questions I know not. If in the heat of conquest, we undertake the problem, we shall fail; if from greed of power, we shall fail. But if regretfully we accept the responsibility and bring our highest courage to our highest fate, the same Providence that gave victory to Dewey will give victory to our high purposes, and the result will be a blessing not only to this people, but to the civilization of the world."

There is in these words a sense of deep responsibility. They express the best American thought. Statesman as he is, ripe in the knowledge of the problems we have to deal with, he simply declares that he does not know how to solve these questions. Instead of boasting over the power of the Great Eagle to scream all creation into order and civilization, he seriously declares, like Senator Hoar, that we are in great danger from the lust of conquest, and the greed of power.

One of the chief objections raised to

the expansion policy is that the nation must now depart from the principle of self-rule, and attempt to govern colonies and territories from Washington. In developing this new policy, Hawaii will be one of the first to feel its effects. There will probably be no power given to the natives here, that will not be, in a large measure, given to the inhabitants of other colonies. In limiting the privilege of self-rule in the Spanish regions, there will be a strong tendency to limit it here, and keep the seat of government in Washington.

The Springfield Republican, representing the intelligence and thought of central and eastern Massachusetts, says the language of the expansionists is to the conservatives: "What is the use of talking? The majority are against you. This great and glorious republic is wild for expansion. The great bounding, expanding heart of the nation, as a Texas paper says, 'leap upward to kiss the star of destiny.'"

The Republican says that Rudyard Kipling was recently asked to explain the "public morals" of Cecil Rhodes. "What do you mean by morals?" asked the inspired author of "The Recessional" with contempt. "Rhodes is making empire." And the Republican, representing the sentiment of the Bay State replies, the practical question to answer may soon be this: "Shall we butcher the Filipinos in order to show our them the blessings of civilization and liberty?"

Colonel Clarke, secretary of the Home Market Club of Boston, says that the sentiment of all the members of the club, with one exception, is against annexation of the Philippines. The membership of the club includes "a preponderance of the principal manufacturers and merchants and public men of New England."

We are now giving no opinion, but simply noting current thought. On the one side are the expansionists of the West, who wish to "leap up and kiss the star of destiny." On the other side, are the men like General Woodford, who believe that we should only "regretfully" accept the task of giving order to the new acquisitions. Surely it is a noble sentiment.

THE PASSING HOUR.

In some directions Naval Hero Hobson sees straight. He has refused an offer of \$50,000 for a lecture tour.

It will make the excursionists by the Garonne feel right at home to tell them that "really, this weather is exceptional at this season."

As L. M. Johnson, whose pilikia is mentioned in the news from Manila, is not an American citizen, it is more than likely that he will be let off with a reprimand.

San Francisco, with the characteristic generosity and appreciation of the free hearted men of the boundless West, is to give due recognition to the gallant firemen who risked their lives so readily and willingly in the Baldwin hotel fire.

A powerful lobby against the Nicaragua canal has opened offices at Washington and will try to push the Panama enterprise. The lobby can scarcely succeed, but in any event a canal will be ordered or authorized and Hawaii will be tremendously benefited.

Senator Perkins of California says that personally he does not favor retention of the Philippines, but intimates that he might possibly yield to the pressure of the expansion creed, which has one of its most demonstrative fountain heads on the Pacific coast.

Honolulu has every reason to be proud of her young men in Manila. Every recruit from this port has proven to be true blue. Most of them had a lot of trouble getting into the American army, which fact perhaps contributed in impelling them to do their very best all the time.

The projectors of the new First National bank are positive in the statement that the institution is not set up for the purpose of attempting to drive

other people in the same line out of business. At the same time it is hinted that there is to be a marked shrinkage in exchange rates.

Nearly every paper received from the States asserts that prize fighting has at last been killed and that it committed suicide by being given license. This seems almost too good to be true.

It is too bad that the opera house engagement of Nance O'Neil and the McKee Rankin Company was prolonged or extended. The regular season ended in a blaze of glory. The extra showing simply fizzled out.

There is something queer in the San Francisco Call coming out so strong against the prize ring and against winter horse racing. The owner of the Call has been a public patron and a heavy backer of these sports for several years. He has either become converted or opposition papers have better prize fight reports and other people rival race tracks.

PRESIDENCY OF YALE.

NEW YORK, November 24.—A Sun special from Washington says: If Judge W. H. Taft of the United States Circuit Court in the Ohio district is given the presidency of Yale University, as intimated in newspaper dispatches, an opening will be made for the fulfillment of the ambition of ex-Secretary of State Day. He would undoubtedly receive the appointment to fill the vacancy caused by the resignation of Judge Taft. It is an open secret among the friends of Mr. Day that he desires to go on the Federal bench, and it is known that the President will appoint him to the first vacancy, so that Mr. Day's friends would be glad to see the selection of Judge Taft to the presidency of Yale.

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TIMELY TOPICS
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(B & H)

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One feature of these new lamps is the

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